

officer for the Indian Wing of the Civil Air Patrol he began a career as a commercial pilot. He worked with Frontier Airlines from 1964 until the company shut down in 1986. While with Frontier, he served as Central Air Safety Chairman for fifteen years. In 1986 he moved to Continental Airlines. Colonel Hines flew with the Continental for eleven years until his retirement in 1997. He continues to teach ground school and safety courses for Continental.

He finally settled down into the Colorado Wing of the Civil Air Patrol where he has concentrated on flight operations and aircrew evaluation and standardization. He also served several years as the Vice Commander and has, for the last four years, served as Wing Commander for the entire State of Colorado. Colonel Hines is in charge of the search and rescue division of CAP for Colorado. He has actively participated in many difficult searches. Colonel Hines was essential for providing the leadership in the search for the Air Force A-10 which crashed near Eagle, Colorado. He led the massive effort, which involved many days and missions. Colonel Hines was instrumental in the planning and execution of the safe high-altitude mission in marginal weather conditions.

Through his selfless volunteer leadership, Colonel Hines has distinguished himself as a great man. He has also brought distinction to the Colorado Wing, the Rocky Mountain Region, the Civil Air Patrol, and through all of these organizations, the United States of America.

IN RECOGNITION OF JERSEY CITY'S ECUADORIAN FLAG RAISING CEREMONY COMMEMORATING ECUADOR'S INDEPENDENCE AND OF THIS YEAR'S HONOREES, INCLUDING MR. NAPOLEON BARRAGAN, MR. HECTOR DELGADO, AND MR. ANGELO DEL MONACO

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 1999

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the honorees of this year's Ecuadorian Flag Raising Ceremony to commemorate Ecuador's independence celebration for their tremendous contributions to the State of New Jersey.

On August 10, 1999, the Ecuadorian Flag Raising Ceremony will observe Ecuador's independence by honoring an array of civic leaders and community activists from Jersey City, New Jersey. The Ceremony creates a forum which highlights efforts in promoting not only Ecuadorian cultural pride but also for the important and difficult task of providing role models for our children and young people.

This year's honorees are:

ECUADOREANS FOR JERSEY CITY: George Barreto, Washington Davida, Sergio Mendez, Denis Tapia, Rosa Tapia, Lourdes Porras, Santiago Cavagnaro, Blanca Barzola, Frank Molina, Armando Molina, and Sara Velazquez.

ECUADORIAN CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS: La Casa de la Cultura Ecuatoriana, Comité Civico Ecuatoriano, Sociedad Tungurahense de New Jersey, A.S.O.P.R.E.X., and Cultuarte.

ECUADORIAN NEWSPAPERS: Ecuador News, Campana News, El Expreso, and Latinos.

In addition, special tributes and presentations are set to be awarded to Mr. Napoleon Barragan, founder of 1-800-MAT-TRES, Mr. Hector Delgado, founder and proprietor of Delgado Travel, and Mr. Angelo del Monaco, the five-time world record holding Ecuadorian cyclist, for their outstanding achievements and unquestionable leadership.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating all of the recipients honored by the Ecuadorian Flag Raising Ceremony for all of their accomplishments. Their tremendous contributions have truly strengthened the City of Jersey City, and, I wish them all continued luck and success in community service.

ANTI-GAY BIGOTRY AGAINST ARIZONA STATE REPRESENTATIVE STEVE MAY

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 1999

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, at a time when the leaders of this country should rise up and speak out in favor of the family and commitment, it is a disgrace to our common sense that our nation and in particular our Department of Defense, continues to persecute gay Americans who espouse these values.

Though millions of law-abiding, tax-paying gay Americans honor the tradition of family by honoring their unions to each other, they consistently see their efforts rewarded by a rhetoric that is seemingly aligned with their commitment to these values and yet is used as a tool to alienate them from this society and deny them their most basic rights.

Recently, Arizona State Representative Steve May added a heroic voice to those calling for full civil rights for gay Americans by refusing to accept the bigotry and prejudice inherent in the movement to strip away domestic partner benefits for gay couples. During debate in the Arizona State House of Representatives on legislation barring Arizona counties from offering domestic partner benefits, Mr. May bravely spoke out against the legislation and told his fellow legislators that he was gay and that he would not tolerate discrimination against gay families.

Representative May is a member of the Army Reserve and a former active duty soldier. After acknowledging in the debate that he loves and shares his life with another man, the Army has initiated an effort to remove him from the military.

Mr. Speaker, what hypocrisy! At a time when our nation's military is being forced to lower its standards in order to maintain force levels, we are expelling from the military highly talented and experienced individuals who want to serve our nation.

Mr. Speaker, the New York Times last Sunday (September 5, 1999) published an Editorial Observer column by Brent Staples which eloquently places the experience of Steve May in a suitable context and appropriately denounces the injustice of attacks on gay women and men in this country. I urge my colleagues to read this excellent piece and to join me in ending the injustice of protecting some families while harming others.

Mr. Speaker, I submit the column by Brent Staples commending Steve May and his stance on domestic partner benefits in The New York Times to be placed in the RECORD.

[From the New York Times, Sept. 5, 1999]
WHY SAME-SEX MARRIAGE IS THE CRUCIAL ISSUE

(By Brent Staples)

The civil rights movement had made spectacular gains in the courts—including Brown v. Board of Education—before Rosa Parks galvanized public opinion in a way that lawsuits had not. Ms. Parks became an emblematic figure when she was arrested in Montgomery, Ala., for refusing to sit in the “colored only” section of a bus. The sight of this dignified woman being denied the simplest courtesy because she was black crystallized the dehumanizing nature of segregation and rallied people against it.

Racism began to wane as white Americans were introduced to members of the black minority whom they could identify as “just like us.” A similar introduction is underway for gay Americans, but the realization that they are “just like us” has yet to sink in. When it finally does, the important transitional figures will include State Representative Steve May, a 27-year-old Republican from Arizona.

Mr. May is a solid conservative who supports issues like vouchers and charter schools. He was raised a Mormon and recalls himself as the kid who “had to go out and bring in the wayward souls.” He is also a former active-duty soldier and an Army reservist, whose record shows that he could have moved up swiftly and been given a command.

But Mr. May is about to be hounded out of the Reserve for publicly admitting he loves and shares his life with another man. This acknowledgment came last winter during a heated exchange in the Arizona Legislature over a bill that would have barred counties from offering domestic-partner benefits, stripping them from gay couples who currently enjoy them.

Mr. May could have sat quietly, protecting his career. Instead he exposed the provision as bigoted and told the Arizona House: “It is an attack on my family, an attack on my freedom. . . . My gay tax dollars are the same as your straight tax dollars. If you are not going to treat me fairly, stop taking my tax dollars. . . . I’m not asking for the right to marry, but I’d like to ask this Legislature to leave my family alone.”

When Rosa Parks declined to yield her seat on that bus, she was telling Alabama that she was not just a colored person, but a human being who deserved the respect and protection of the law. Mr. May’s words in the Arizona House were similarly clarifying. Fearful of a backlash, gay politicians rarely mention their mates in public—and shy away from speaking of them in terms that might disturb even constituents who know that they are gay. But by framing his argument in the context of “the family,” Mr. May disarmed his bigoted colleagues and took the debate on same-sex unions exactly where it needed to go.

When Mr. May’s comments became public, the Army Reserve began an investigation that legal experts say will certainly end in discharge. Lieutenant May will then become a casualty of “don’t ask, don’t tell,” which ended more than 1,100 military careers in 1998, on the grounds that homosexuals who reveal the fact are no longer fit to serve.

This is a staggering loss at a time when the armed services are canvassing strip malls and lowering entrance requirements to find personnel. By the time this policy is abandoned, thousands of talented Americans

will have been lost to a purge that will come to be recognized as contrary to the public good and morally wrong.

Republicans began the 1990's refusing campaign contributions from gay organizations and demonizing homosexuals for political gain. But in the race for 2000, the most prominent candidates are accepting the money and say that they would hire gay workers as long as they refrained from pressing "a gay agenda"—a code phrase for keeping quiet about issues of same-sex intimacy, up to and including marriage. The trouble with this approach is that legitimacy for same-sex unions is the heart of the matter. By denying that legitimacy, we declare gay

love less valid than heterosexual love and gay people less human. We cut them off from the rituals of family and marriage that bind us together as a culture.

The legislator who wished to revoke benefits from same-sex partners in Arizona viewed those partnerships as culturally alien and morally illegitimate. The military establishment may force Mr. May out of the service—despite an exemplary record—because his family consists of two men who are indistinguishable from their neighbors, except that they sleep together.

This persecution finds a parallel in statutes that made it illegal for blacks and whites to get married up until 1967, when the

Supreme Court declared the laws unconstitutional. The laws were based on the primitive belief that blacks and whites were set apart on the tree of life by God Himself. Interracial couples were initially seen as a threat to the social order and to the institution of marriage. Over time, the culture began to discard the filter of race, viewing the couples as "just like the rest of us." The same process will probably work out for same-sex couples—but only after an extended battle. When the matter is settled, historians will look back at people like Steve May, who declined to go quietly to the back of the American bus.